



Serial No. 10/776,887
Amendment and Response to Office Action
(Restriction) Mailed on May 22, 2006

REMARKS

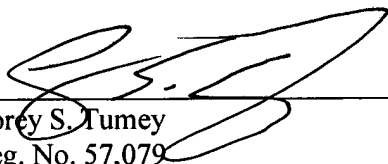
In the Office Action, the Examiner has restricted claims 1-85 to two inventions. Specifically, the Examiner has identified the following inventions: Invention I, consisting of claims 1-44 and 56-85, drawn to a drilling fluid and method; and Invention II, consisting of claims 45-55, drawn to a method of flocculation.

Although Applicants do not necessarily concede the correctness of the Examiner's reasons for restriction, Applicants hereby elect Invention I, identified by the Examiner to include claims 1-44 and 56-85, without traverse. Accordingly, Applicants hereby cancel claims 44-55 without prejudice for possible inclusion in a divisional application. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-44 and 56-85 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Respectfully submitted,

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